

Message Text

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64

ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-10 AGR-10 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-07 EPA-04 ERDA-07 FMC-02 TRSE-00 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-02 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SAL-01 /150 W
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R 052030Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASDHC 5235

USUN NEW YORK 73

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

UNCLAS SUVA 853

USUN FOR LOS DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJ: SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM DECLARATION ON LAW OF SEA

FOLLOWING IS DECLARATION ON LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE BY
SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM MEMBER COUNTRIESWHICH MET AT NAURU
ON JULY 26. FYI-FOLLOWING COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES
ATTENDED MEETING: FIJI, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, TONGA, WESTERN
SAMOA, COOK ISLANDS, NIVE, SOLOMON ISLANDS, TUVALU,
GILBERT ISLANDS, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

QUOTE: AT THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC
FORUM THE LEADERS OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC
UNDERLINE THE IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACH TO DEVELOPMENTS NOW
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TAKING PLACE IN CONNECTION WITH THE LAW OF THE SEA.

HAVING CONSIDERED A PAPER SUBMITTED BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF FIJI, THEY REAFFIRM THE NEED FOR CONTINUING CONSULTATION AND AGREE THAT THEIR DELEGATIONS WILL WORK TOGETHER VERY CLOSELY AT THE FORTHCOMING SESSION OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE DUE TO OPEN IN NEW YORK ON 2 AUGUST.

THE COUNTRIES REPRESENTED IN THE FORUM HAVE A COMMON INTEREST IN SEEING A POSITIVE OUTCOME OF THE CONFERENCE. ALL MEMBERS STAND TO BENEFIT FROM THE CREATION OF A 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE, WHOSE RESOURCES WOULD BE UNDER THEIR CONTROL, AND FOR MANY OF THEM IT WILL OPEN THE WAY TO MAJOR NEW ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES. THE STEPS THEY TAKE OVER THE NEXT YEAR OR TWO ARE THEREFORE OF GREAT POLITICAL AS WELL AS ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE.

THE FORUM LEADERS RECOGNIZE THAT MUCH NEEDS TO BE DONE TO PREPARE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONES AND TO ENSURE THAT, ONCE ESTABLISHED, THE ZONES WORK TO THE MAXIMUM ADVANTAGE OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC COUNTRIES. THIS WILL CALL FOR CO-ORDINATION AND CO-OPERATION ON A REGIONAL BASIS. THE MEMBERS OF THE FORUM WILL SEEK TO AVOID DECISIONS WHICH, BECAUSE OF LACK OF CONSULTATION OR CO-ORDINATION, COULD BENEFIT ONE OR MORE MEMBERS ONLY, AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHERS AND OF THE REGION AS A WHOLE.

SEVERAL MAJOR STEPS WILL BE NEEDED ONCE 200 MILE ZONES ARE ESTABLISHED. THESE INCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS WITH COUNTRIES THAT SEND THEIR FISHING FLEETS FROM OUTSIDE THE REGION. THE FORUM LEADERS RECOGNIZE THE VALUE OF A CO-ORDINATED APPROACH IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS WITH DISTANT-WATER FISHING COUNTRIES THAT NOW OPERATE IN THE AREA.

IT WILL ALSO BE NECESSARY TO DEVELOP A CAPABILITY FOR MARITIME SURVEILLANCE AND POLICING. THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN THIS CAN BEST BE TACKLED THROUGH JOINT OR CO-OPERATIVE ACTION.

THE FORUM AGREED THAT, GIVEN THE STAGE WHICH THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE HAS REACHED, IT WILL BE DESIRABLE FOR THE MEMBER COUNTRIES TO MEET SHORTLY AT GOVERNMENT LEVEL. THEIR OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO CONSIDER THE TIMING AND TERMS OF THE

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CREATION OF 200 MILE ZONES: THE PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THEM: THE CONSERVATION OF MARINE RESOURCES: THE POSSIBLE CREATION OF A SOUTH PACIFIC FISHERIES AGENCY: AND THE PROSPECTS FOR JOINT ACTION AND REGIONAL CO-OPERATION IN MATTERS SUCH AS SURVEILLANCE AFT POLICING.

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC BUREAU FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION IN SUVA SOON

AFTER THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE
CONCLUDES. UNQUOTE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, LAW OF THE SEA, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SUVA00853
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760302-1237
From: SUVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760881/aaaacsua.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION DLOS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 APR 2004 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM DECLARATION ON LAW OF SEA FOLLOWING IS DECLARATION ON LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE BY SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM MEMBER COUNTRIESWHICH MET AT N
TAGS: PLOS, XU, XP, LOS
To: STATE
USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006